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DATE OF PUBLICATION: 111708Z DEC 13.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

COUNTRY OR NONSTATE ENTITY: (U) South Africa (ZAF).

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424

SUBJECT: (U) South African Air Force Overloaded in
Dealing with Influx of Aircraft for Memorial Service and Burial of
Nelson Mandela

DATE OF INFORMATION: (U) 11 Dec 2013.

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

CUTOFF: (U) 11 Dec 2013.

SUMMARY: (U) SEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, TEXT PARAGRAPH 1, BELOW.

SOURCE NUMBER A:

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED
INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED SECRET//NOFORN.

TEXT: 1. (S//) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. The South African

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Air Force lost control of their airspace over Waterkloof AFB on the
morning of 9 December and had difficulties in managing the influx of
Heads of State aircraft for the memorial service for Nelson Mandela.

2. (S//) The South African Air Force (SAAF) lost
control of their airspace over Waterkloof AFB (FAWK) on the morning
of 9 December 2013 and had difficulties in managing the influx of

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Heads of State (HOS) aircraft for the memorial service for Nelson Mandela.

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3. (S// [REDACTED]) Over 90 Head of State aircraft arrived at Waterkloof AFB from 8-9 December 2013 for leaders to attend the 9 December 2013 memorial service for Nelson Mandela. Due to poor prior planning from the government on the preparation and execution of the events to honor Mr. Mandela after his passing the SAAF was not prepared to receive so many HOS aircraft in a short time span. On 7 December 2013 the SAAF notified all foreign Embassies in South Africa that no non-HOS aircraft would be allowed to land at Waterkloof AFB after 0200 local (0000Z) on 9 December 2013, all non-HOS aircraft arriving after 0200 local would need to utilize Lanseria airport (FALA), and that all aircraft, regardless of being HOS or not, needed a landing clearance prior to landing.

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4. (S// [REDACTED]) However, between approximately 0200 and 0600 local time, several aircraft entered FAWK airspace without clearance. The aircraft disregarded host nation guidance and proceeded to land at FAWK without landing clearance. To not have to admit to allowing uncleared aircraft to land at a SAA F base, the South Africa Overflights office issued verbal landing clearances to FAWK as the uncleared aircraft touched down at Waterkloof.

(b)(1);(b)(3):10 USC 424;Sec. 1.4(c)

6. (S// [REDACTED]) Hours after the start of the memorial service for Nelson Mandela the South African Overflights (SAO) office made the decision that it would not allow any aircraft to land at FAWK until 1000L on 12 December. The SAO office stated that with over 90 HOS aircraft to launch between 1900L on 10 December and the evening 11 December it could not accommodate incoming traffic.

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7. (S// [REDACTED]) Midday on 10 December 2013 senior officers in the SAO office were still unaware that there were already landing clearance requests for FAWK on the evening of 10 December. See field comments.

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